



VOLUME 29 • NUMBER 3

Winter • 2020



John Taylor
Legislative Chairman

It is time for the 2020 Legislative Session. We need your help! If you have been following the news at all, you may know that the state's income has not been as good as it could be. It is going to be a tight year. If we are going to accomplish anything, it is going to take a big grass roots effort from

ALL our members. We need each and every one of you to keep in touch with your County Legislative Chair and to contact your Legislators. We have 3 Legislative Goals for this session. Let me say something about each of them.

Our first goal involves PEIA. "That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums, copays or reduction in benefits." This will be the LAST year that PEIA is fully funded. We must start NOW in making sure that the Legislature is aware of this fact. If there is not additional funding next year, there will have to be cuts in benefits. We MUST drive home the point that

any benefit cuts will affect retirees on a fixed income that much worse than those who are still working and receiving increases.

Our second goal, "That WVARSE will promote legislation to increase the pension of those who retired 20 or more years ago by two dollars per month per year of service," will be difficult this year. We may not be successful again this year, but that doesn't mean we won't try. Difficult doesn't mean impossible. Here again, the grass roots efforts are what we need to be effective. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the talking points you need to use. We need all hands-on deck. Be sure your county legislative chair has your email address.

Your Regional Legislative Chairs should be passing information on to from me to the county chairs. They should then pass the information on to you, the grass roots. Check regularly for the latest update and make contact with your legislators as needed.

Finally, our third goal states, "That WVARSE support AARP efforts to reduce prescription drug prices." AARP is not going to roll out their platform until the second or third week of the session. If you make sure you are part of our communication network, you should be among the first to know. Talking points and the specifics of what we are asking will be passed along as soon as I can get permission from AARP.

Right now, the message is that prescription drugs cost too much. Your legislators need to hear that from you. If you have a personal story about the cost of drugs, share it with them. Other than that, keep posted and be ready to make further contact.

We have an effective team of several of our WVARSE members who are on the AARP Advocacy team. We will be in Charleston every week of the Legislature. We need your efforts to help make us successful. I can't emphasize enough the importance of your legislative contacts. It is also important for you and your legislative chairs to constantly check your emails to stay in communication. It is through your efforts that our organization

can be successful again this year.

You should also make an effort to come to the Capitol on January 30 for the CORPE breakfast. Before you come, make appointments to see your legislators. Also invite them to a free breakfast - 8:00 in the Capitol Cafeteria. Arrive at the entrance at 7:45 (not before, since the doors will be locked) and make your way to the cafeteria. When you see your Delegate/Senators, be sure to give them a copy of our goals and any position papers we may have out at the time. Have a picture taken of you with them and get the picture and a story in your local paper. The publicity is good for WVARSE and for the legislator. Your efforts will be appreciated.

Legislative Leadership

Senate



Mitch Carmichael



Tom Takubo



Craig Blair



Michael T. Azinger

President - Senator Mitch Carmichael
Majority Leader - Senator Tom Takubo
Finance Chair - Senator Craig Blair
Pension Chair - Senator Michael T. Azinger

House



Roger Hanshaw



Amy Summers



Eric L. Householder



Dianna Graves

Speaker - Delegate Roger Hanshaw
Majority Leader - Delegate Amy Summers
Finance Chair - Delegate Eric L. Householder
Pension Chair - Delegate Dianna Graves

Senate Finance 2020

Name	Party/County	Other counties	office	Region
Craig Blair (Chair)	R Berkeley	Hampshire, Mineral, Morgan	461 M	VI
Kenny Mann (Vice C)	R Monroe	Fayette, Greenbrier, Summers	441 M	V
Donna Boley	R Pleasants	Roane, Wirt, Wood	206 W	I, III
Doug Facemire	D Braxton	Clay, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis	213 W	II, III
Bill Hamilton	R Upshur	Grant, Nicholas, Pendleton, Randolph Webster	223 W	II, V, VI
William Ihlenfeld	D Ohio	Brooke, Hancock, Marshall	229 W	I
Michael Maroney	R Marshall	Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Marion Monongalia, Ritchie, Tyler, Wetzel	439 M	I, II, III
Corey Palumbo	D Kanawha		209 W	III
Robert Plymale	D Wayne	Cabell	218 W	IV
Roman Prezioso	D Marion	Monongalia	245 M	I
Rollan Roberts	R Raleigh	McDowell, Wyoming	223 W	V
Ron Stollings	D Boone	Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne	209 W	III, IV
Chandler Swope	R Mercer	McDowell, Mingo, Wayne	229 W	IV V
Dave Sypolt	R Preston	Barbour, Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Monongalia, Taylor	214 W	II, VI
Tom Takubo	R Kanawha		227 M	III
Eric Tarr	R Putnam	Jackson, Mason, Roane	441 M	III, IV
John Unger	D Berkeley	Jefferson	200 W	VI

House Finance 2020

Name	Party/County	Other county/counties	Office	Region
Eric Householder (Chair)	R Berkeley		462 M	VI
Vernon Criss (Vice Chair)	R Wood		472 M	III
Mick Bates (Minority Chair)	D Raleigh		150 R	V
Jason Barrett (Minority Vice C)	D Berkeley		4R	VI
Bill Anderson	R Wood		200 E-C	III
Brent Boggs	D Braxton	(Gilmer)	258 M	II
Jim Butler	R Mason	(Putnam)	207 E	IV
Daryl Cowles	R Morgan	(Hampshire)	242 M	VI
Joe Ellington	R Mercer	(Raleigh)	217 E	V
Paul Espinosa	R Jefferson		246 M	VI
Diana Graves	R Kanawha	(Putnam)	207 E	III
John Hardy	R Berkeley		224 E	VI
William Hartman	D Randolph	(Pocahontas)	228 E	II, V
Jordan Hill	R Nicholas	(Greenbrier)	215 E-B	V
Daniel Linville	R Cabell	(Lincoln)	216 E	IV
Linda Longstreth	D Marion		6 U - A	I
Zack Maynard	R Lincoln	(Boone, Logan, Putnam)	227 E	III, IV
Jeffrey Pack	R Raleigh	(Monroe, Raleigh, Summers)	215 E-B	V
Dave Pethel	D Wetzel	(Monongalia)	228 E	I
Ruth Rowan	R Hampshire	(Mineral)	210 E	VI
Larry Rowe	D Kanawha		6 R - A	III
Doug Skaff	D Kanawha		231 E	III
Isaac Sponaule	D Pendleton	(Hardy)	258 M	VI
Erikka Storch	R Ohio		202 E	I
John Williams	D Monongalia		6 R - A	I

WV House Pensions Committee (2020)

Name	Party & counties	Office	WVARSE Region
Dianna Graves (Chair)	R Kanawha (Dist 38 Parts of Kanawha and Putnam)	207-E	III & IV
Dave Pethel (Minority Chair)	D Wetzel (Dist 5 Wetzel and Part of Monongalia)	228-E	I
Ed Evans (Minority Vice Chair)	D McDowell (Dist 26 Parts of McDowell & Mercer)	225-E	V
William Anderson	R Wood (Dist 8 Part of Wood)	200-E	-C-III
Pat McGeehan	R Hancock (Dist 1 Hancock and Part of Brooke)	226-E	I
Eric Nelson	R Kanawha (Dist 35 Part of Kanawha)	218-E	III
Jeffrey Pack	R Raleigh (Parts of Monroe, Raleigh, and Summers Counties)	211-E	V

WV Senate Pensions Committee 2020

Name /Office	Party and county	Dist & counties	WVARSE Region
Mike Azinger - Chair M-417	R Wood	3 Pleasants, Roane (part), Wirt, Wood	I, III
Bill Hamilton – Vice Chair W-223	R Upshur	11 Grant (part), Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, Webster	II, V, VI
John Pitsenbarger W-206	R Nicholas	11 Grant (part), Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, Webster	II, V, VI
William Ihlenfeld W-229	D Ohio	1 Brooke, Hancock, Marshall (part), Ohio	I
Robert Plymale W-218	D Wayne	5 Cabell, Wayne (part)	IV
Mike Romano W-200	D Harrison	12 Braxton, Clay, Gilmer (part), Harrison,	II, III
Lewis Charles Trump, IV W-210	R Morgan	15 Berkeley (part), Hampshire, Mineral (part), Morgan	VI

Senators
Districts 1-7



William J. Ihlenfeld II
(D - Ohio, 01)



Ryan W. Weld
(R - Brooke, 01)

See page 8 for contact info of Senators and House Committee members



Charles H. Clements
(R - Wetzel, 02)



Michael J. Maroney
(R - Marshall, 02)



Michael T. Azinger
(R - Wood, 03)



Donna J. Boley
(R - Pleasants, 03)



Mitch Carmichael
(R - Jackson, 04)



Eric J. Tarr
(R - Putnam, 04)



Robert H. Plymale
(D - Wayne, 05)



Michael A. Woelfel
(D - Cabell, 05)



Mark R. Maynard
(R - Wayne, 06)



Chandler Swope
(R - Mercer, 06)



Paul Hardesty
(D - Logan, 07)



Ron D. Stollings
(D - Boone, 07)

WVARSE LEGISLATIVE GOALS 2019-2020

MAIN GOALS

- That WVARSE will promote legislation to continue and maintain the quality of PEIA coverage, without increases in premiums, copays or reduction in benefits
- That WVARSE will promote legislation to increase the pension of those who retired 20 or more years ago by two dollars per month per year of service.
- That WVARSE support AARP efforts to reduce prescription drug prices.

Talking Points on Pension Increase 2020

WVARSE will promote legislation to increase the pension of those who retired 20 or more years ago by two dollars per month per year of service.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, due to inflation it now takes \$154.47 to buy what \$100 would have bought in 1999. Unfortunately, most West Virginia retiree pensions have not increased in that time. Throughout those years, their pensions have been reduced by PEIA premium increases and inflation.

This pension increase will affect only long-retired people, mostly in their eighties and above.

These employees worked for West Virginia, but their pensions have been eaten away by inflation and by increased premiums for their insurance which comes out of their pensions.

These retiree pensions were based on the salaries of 1999 and before. There is no cost of living adjustment to help them keep pace with rising costs. In effect, they must keep trying to get along with less and less.

These retirees gave many years of service to the state of West Virginia and deserve our assistance in their golden years. The state should not simply forget those who served us.

The Legislature, for the last two years, gave active employees an increase. It is time to also help retired employees.

This is the least we can do for those who loyally served our state.

Summary of Retiree Increases Since 1998

PERS

2000 - All retirees with 20 or more years of service were guaranteed a minimum annuity of \$500/month.

2001 - All retirees age 65 retired for 5 years or more received a 5% increase

All retirees age 70 retired for 5 or more years received a 10% increase.

All early retirees age 65 retired for 5 or more years received a 3% increase.

2006 - All retirees age 70 retired 5 or more years received a 3% increase.

2008 - 13th check of \$600 to retirees w/20 yrs and annual benefit of \$7200 or less adjusted.

2011 - 13th check of \$1200 to retirees w/20 yrs and annual benefit of \$7200 or less.

2019 - Successfully increased minimum pensions from \$500 a month to \$750 a month.

TRS

1998 - All retirees who retired on or after 7/1/1986 but before 4/1/1998 received a \$2 @month for every year of service. All retirees who retired before 4/1/1988 and who were receiving less than or equal to \$300 received an additional \$1 @ month for each year of service.

2000 - All retirees with 20 or more years of service were guaranteed a minimum annuity of \$500 monthly.

2001 - All retirees age 65 retired for 5 years or more received a 5% increase

All retirees age 70 retired for 5 or more years received 10% increase. All early retirees age 65 retired for 5 or more years received a 3% increase.

2006 - All retirees age 70 retired for 5 or more years received 3% increase.

2008 - 13th check of \$600 to retirees w/20 yrs and annual benefit \$7200 or less adjusted.

2011 - 13th check of \$1200 to retirees w/20 yrs and annual benefit \$7200 or less.

2019 - Successfully increased minimum pensions from \$500 a month to \$750 a month.

West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees Board Members to contact during Legislature

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President -Elect Irvin Scarberry 304 544-4288 irvinscarberry@gmail.com

Immediate Past President Jo Ann Harman 304 749-7322 jsharman@frontiernet.net

Treasurer Judy Staubly 304 269-5494 judy@staubly.org

Executive Director William G. Milam Cell: 304 610-0192 bmilam@suddenlink.net

Region I Charmel Radcliff 304 684-2133 charmelr@hotmail.com

Region II Martha Dean 304 765-2126 marddean@hotmail.com

Region III Carol Williams 304 927-2910 tandcwilliams@suddenlink.net

Region IV Denis Chapman 304 697-2082 dhchapma@aol.com

Region V Ann Pauley 304 913-4109 a_pauley4@hotmail.com

Region VI John Moyers 304 749-7547 jemoe@frontiernet.net

Legislative Chair John Taylor 304 265-5514 Johntaylor1@comcast.net

CORPE RALLY DAY January 30, 2020

Members should plan to arrive at the Capitol Cafeteria around 8:00 a.m. a light breakfast will be served consisting of eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee and hot tea (if you need a special diet, please let someone know when you arrive). We will have two lines for breakfast (one for retirees and the other for Legislators). Pick up your ticket and get a hand stamp as you enter. Give the ticket and show your hand stamp to whomever is collecting tickets when you get your breakfast. There is no charge for breakfast. Free parking is available at Laidley Field (Laidley Field side of the Street) with shuttle service every 10 minutes. Wear your **RED**.

TIPS for the CORPE Rally Day

Before the Rally

Know your legislators-their names, their titles (senator, delegate, president, speaker, chairman/ chairwoman); recognize their faces Invite your legislators to attend the Rally, Prepare a sign for your unit (_____ County Retired School Employees) Make a pin or small favor for your legislators. Ask your legislators to recognize your county unit during the legislative session.

At the Rally

Wear **RED** and plan to arrive around 8:00 a.m. Hold up your sign to bring your entire unit together. Units that share a legislator may consider sitting together or Regions may want to sit together. Address the legislator by name (Senator Jones) and introduce yourself (again). Present your legislators with the favors. THANK them for attending.

After the Rally

Visit with your legislators present. Visit the offices of those who did not attend. Attend the sessions. Stand when they recognize your group. If time, visit the offices of those who did attend thank the secretary for reminding them.

SPEAKERS

We have not scheduled speakers for this event, we will be inviting legislators to the event and will allow any legislator who wishes to speak. Spud Terry will be the MC and will make a brief statement at the beginning.

ON STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL, AARP MAINTAINS STEADY ADVOCACY PRESENCE

As the 60-day regular session of the West Virginia Legislature gets under way in Charleston, AARP West Virginia staff and volunteers plan to maintain a very active presence at the State Capitol throughout the session, working on behalf of nearly 300,000 members across the Mountain State. AARP West Virginia’s 30-member Capitol Advocacy Team of volunteers works closely with state leaders to ensure the voices of 50+ West Virginians are heard on legislative issues, with a focus on state advocacy in the areas of financial and retirement security, caregiving services and support, strengthening communities, and supporting efforts to enhance broadband service availability across the Mountain State.

On a national level, AARP is urging leaders in Washington and in State Capitols across the country to address the issue of soaring drug prices. A new report by the AARP Public Policy Institute (PPI) has found that retail prices for a set of 754 widely used drugs increased faster than inflation every year from 2006 to 2017. And in 2017 the average annual increase in drug prices was 4.2 percent, which was double the rate of inflation. The out-of-control prices that the pharmaceutical industry charges for prescription drugs is a crisis touching nearly every American. To learn more about AARP’s national efforts, visit www.aarp.org/Rx.

AARP West Virginia begins 2020 with new state volunteer leadership, as Jane Marks of Charleston begins her service as AARP’s new state president. Marks succeeds outgoing State President Rich Stonestreet of Charleston, who completed his six-year tenure as AARP’s lead state volunteer on December 31. Stonestreet will continue to serve as an advocacy volunteer with AARP West Virginia at the State Capitol.

An AARP volunteer since 2015, Marks has more than 30 years of experience working in the non-profit, public policy and advocacy arena. For 12 years, she served as the executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association, WV Chapter, retiring from that position in 2013. Jane was instrumental in effectively growing the programs and outreach of the organization in the Mountain State, leading state advocacy efforts to increase awareness, support families and individuals affected by Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia-related illnesses, encourage innovation and increase funding for research and treatment.

“Jane Marks brings a wealth of public policy, caregiving-focused advocacy and volunteer management experience to this statewide volunteer leadership role with our organization,” said AARP West Virginia State Director Gaylene Miller. “We thank Rich Stonestreet for the outstanding leadership he has provided our volunteers and members across the Mountain State over the past six years, and we look forward to his continued volunteer service with our AARP Capitol Advocacy Team in the upcoming West Virginia legislative session.”

As AARP West Virginia President, Marks will articulate the positions and views of AARP in the Mountain State; provide leadership; and foster creativity and enthusiasm in AARP’s volunteers, members, and staff. Additionally, she will represent AARP West Virginia and its members at key state and national meetings and events. She will serve as Chair of the State Executive Council, as well as partner with AARP State Director Gaylene Miller, staff and volunteers to help achieve AARP’s vision, mission and strategic priorities within West Virginia.

For the latest updates on AARP’s state advocacy work at the State Capitol, follow AARP West Virginia on Facebook and on Twitter @AARPWV. The 60-day regular session of the West Virginia Legislature concludes on Saturday, March 7.

Senators Districts 8-17 & House of Delegates Districts 1-7



Glenn D. Jeffries
(D - Putnam, 08)



Richard D. Lindsay II
(D - Kanawha, 08)



Sue Cline
(R - Wyoming, 09)



Rollan Roberts
(R - Raleigh, 09)



Stephen Baldwin
(D - Greenbrier, 10)



Kenny Mann
(R - Monroe, 10)



Bill Hamilton
(R - Upshur, 11)



John R. Pitsenbarger
(R - Nicholas, 11)



Douglas E. Facemire
(D - Braxton, 12)



Michael J. Romano
(D - Harrison, 12)



Roman W. Prezioso Jr.
(D - Marion, 13)



Robert D. Beach
(D - Monongalia, 13)



Randy E. Smith
(R - Tucker, 14)



Dave Sypolt
(R - Preston, 14)



Craig Blair
(R - Berkeley, 15)



Charles S. Trump IV
(R - Morgan, 15)



Patricia Puertas Rucker
(R - Jefferson, 16)



John R. Unger II
(D - Berkeley, 16)



Corey Palumbo
(D - Kanawha, 17)



Tom Takubo
(R - Kanawha, 17)



Pat McGeehan
(R - Hancock, 01)



Randy Swartzmiller
(D - Hancock, 01)



Phillip W. Diserio
(D - Brooke, 02)



Shawn Fluharty
(D - Ohio, 03)



Erikka Storch
(R - Ohio, 03)



Joe Canestraro
(D - Marshall, 04)



Lisa Zukoff
(D - Marshall, 04)



Dave Pethtel
(D - Wetzel, 05)



David Kelly
(R - Tyler, 06)

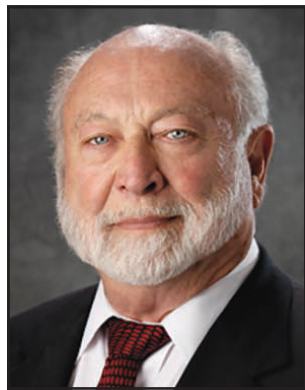


Trenton Barnhart
(R - Pleasants, 07)

House of Delegates Districts 8-27



Bill Anderson
(R - Wood, 08)



Chuck Little
(R - Wirt, 09)



Tom Azinger
(R - Wood, 10)



Vernon Criss
(R - Wood, 10)



John R. Kelly
(R - Wood, 10)



Martin Atkinson III
(R - Roane, 11)



Steve Westfall
(R - Jackson, 12)



Scott Cadle
(R - Mason, 13)



Joshua Higginbotham
(R - Putnam, 13)



Jim Butler
(R - Mason, 14)



Geoff Foster
(R - Putnam, 15)



Sean Hornbuckle
(D - Cabell, 16)



Daniel Linville
(R - Cabell, 16)



John Mandt
(R - Cabell, 16)



Chad Lovejoy
(D - Cabell, 17)



Matthew Rohrbach
(R - Cabell, 17)



Evan Worrell
(R - Cabell, 18)



Kenneth P. Hicks
(D - Wayne, 19)



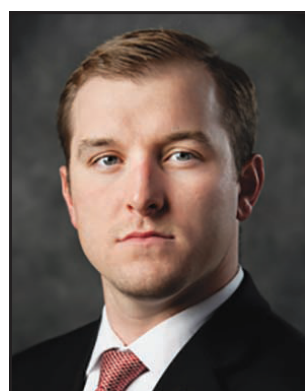
Robert Thompson
(D - Wayne, 19)



Nathan Brown
(D - Mingo, 20)



Mark Dean
(R - Mingo, 21)



Zack Maynard
(R - Lincoln, 22)



Joe Jeffries
(R - Putnam, 22)



Rodney Miller
(D - Boone, 23)



Ralph Rodighiero
(D - Logan, 24)



Tim Tomblin
(D - Logan, 24)



Tony Paynter
(R - Wyoming, 25)



Ed Evans
(D - McDowell, 26)



Joe Ellington
(R - Mercer, 27)



Eric Porterfield
(R - Mercer, 27)

House of Delegates Districts 27-46



John Shott
(R - Mercer, 27)



Roy Cooper
(R - Summers, 28)



Jeffrey Pack
(R - Raleigh, 28)



Brandon Steele
(R - Raleigh, 29)



Mick Bates
(D - Raleigh, 30)



Chris Toney
(R - Raleigh, 31)



Tom Fast
(R - Fayette, 32)



Kayla Kessinger
(R - Fayette, 32)



Margaret Anne Staggars
(D - Fayette, 32)



Roger Hanshaw
(R - Clay, 33)



Brent Boggs
(D - Braxton, 34)



Andrew Byrd
(D - Kanawha, 35)



Moore Capito
(R - Kanawha, 35)



Eric Nelson Jr.
(R - Kanawha, 35)



Doug Skaff
(D - Kanawha, 35)



Larry L. Rowe
(D - Kanawha, 36)



Amanda Estep-burton
(D - Kanawha, 36)



Andrew Robinson
(D - Kanawha, 36)



Mike Pushkin
(D - Kanawha, 37)



Dianna Graves
(R - Kanawha, 38)



T. Kevan Bartlett
(R - Kanawha, 39)



Dean Jeffries
(R - Kanawha, 40)



Jordan C. Hill
(R - Nicholas, 41)



Jeff Campbell
(D - Greenbrier, 42)



Cindy Lavender-Bowe
(D - Greenbrier, 42)



William G. Hartman
(D - Randolph, 43)



Cody Thompson
(D - Randolph, 43)



Caleb Hanna
(R - Nicholas, 44)



Carl Martin
(R - Upshur, 45)



Patrick S. Martin
(R - Lewis, 46)

House of Delegates Districts 47-67



Chris Phillips
(R - Barbour, 47)



Danny Hamrick
(R - Harrison, 48)



Timothy Miley
(D - Harrison, 48)



Ben Queen
(R - Harrison, 48)



Terry Waxman
(R - Harrison, 48)



Amy Summers
(R - Taylor, 49)



Michael Angelucci
(D - Marion, 50)



Mike Caputo
(D - Marion, 50)



Linda Longstreth
(D - Marion, 50)



Barbara Evans Fleischauer
(D - Monongalia, 51)



Evan Hansen
(D - Monongalia, 51)



Rodney A. Pyles
(D - Monongalia, 51)



Danielle Walker
(D - Monongalia, 51)



John Williams
(D - Monongalia, 51)



Terri Funk Sypolt
(R - Preston, 52)



D. Rolland Jennings
(R - Preston, 53)



John Paul Hott
(R - Grant, 54)



Isaac Sponaugle
(D - Pendleton, 55)



Gary G. Howell
(R - Mineral, 56)



Ruth Rowan
(R - Hampshire, 57)



Daryl Cowles
(R - Morgan, 58)



Larry D. Kump
(R - Berkeley, 59)



S Marshall Wilson
(I - Berkeley, 60)



Jason Barrett
(D - Berkeley, 61)



Tom Bibby
(R - Berkeley, 62)



John Hardy
(R - Berkeley, 63)



Eric L. Householder
(R - Berkeley, 64)



Sammi Brown
(D - Jefferson, 65)



Paul Espinosa
(R - Jefferson, 66)



John Doyle
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Contact Information for Senators and Delegates on Finance and Pension Committees

Senators

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Corey Palumbo (D - Kanawha, 17))
Minority Whip
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
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